

# Justice-doing at the intersections of power:

## *Responding to mean and hate-filled necropolitics in community work*

**Vikki Reynolds**

Written by Eleanor Anderson and Mark Chidgey



Vikki Reynolds is an activist/therapist who works to bridge the worlds of social justice activism with community work and therapy. In her heartfelt and moving presentation, she shared moving and powerful images that reflected the current political, social and climate challenges across the world, asking us to consider what is at the heart of our work as therapists, practitioners and supervisors. More specifically she asked us what the ethics were that draw us to do our work. What are the ways of being in this work that we value, hold close, or sacred, without which we would be unable to work? Communicating with passion and energy it was noticeable how Vikki came alive in her whole body as she invited us to build 'teams of solidarity' to move to positions of therapeutic activism. By this she meant an approach that involves keeping genuine connectedness to a sense of humanity by using our collective power to change systems of oppression that cause suffering because as Vikki suggested, social justice 'trickles up' through systems. She challenged our conventional wisdoms particularly around burnout and self-care. She gave language to practices that we often feel are abusive and wrong, but don't know how to name. She left us with much determination to think about what is possible.

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